

**Town of Hopkinton, New Hampshire  
Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting  
March 11, 2008**

Moderator Gary Richardson called the annual meeting of the Town of Hopkinton to order on March 11, 2008 at 7:30 a.m. in the Hopkinton High School gymnasium. The Moderator recognized Toni Gray for consideration of ballot articles 1, 2, 3 and 4, seconded by Bruce Ellsworth.

**Article 1:** To choose all necessary Town Officers by ballot and majority vote for the ensuing year as enumerated:

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 2 Selectman                   | 3 Year Term each |
| 1 Supervisor of the Checklist | 6 Year Term      |
| 2 Budget Committee            | 3 Year Term each |
| 2 Library Trustee             | 3 Year Term each |
| 1 Cemetery Trustee            | 3 Year Term      |
| 1 Trustee of Trust Funds      | 3 Year Term      |
| 1 Treasurer                   | 3 Year Term      |
| 1 Moderator                   | 2 Year Term      |

**Article 2:** To see what action the Town will take with respect to the following proposed amendments to the Hopkinton Zoning Ordinance by ballot vote upon the following questions:

1. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board (4-0) for the Town of Hopkinton Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Section V, 5.4.7 Junk Vehicles by replacing it with a new paragraph entitled 5.4.7 Uninspected Vehicles. No more than one uninspected motor vehicle may remain within any residential district unless the vehicle and its parts are enclosed within a building. (Recommended by the Planning Board)

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

2. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board (5-0) for the Town of Hopkinton Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Section XVII Floodplain Development Ordinance as necessary to comply with requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program? (Recommended by the Planning Board)

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Article 3:** "Do you favor adoption of the town manager plan as provided in chapter 37 of the Revised Statutes Annotated?" Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ *Submitted by Petition*

**Article 4:** "Are you in favor of decreasing the Board of Selectmen to 3 members per RSA 41:8-d?" Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ *Submitted by Petition*

At 12:00 (noon), the meeting recessed, but the polls remained open until 7:00 p.m. The 243rd meeting reconvened at the Hopkinton High School gymnasium on Saturday, March 15th, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

Moderator Gary Richardson called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Girl Scouts from Swift Water Council Troop 369 led the Pledge of Allegiance and Kathy Donohoe sang the National Anthem.

The moderator reviewed parliamentary procedures and the procedure for requesting yes/no ballots. He read the results of Tuesday's election.

FOR SELECTMAN for Three Years Two Elected

**CHRISTOPHER LAWLESS 694** elected

**JAMES J. O'BRIEN 736** elected

ALBERT WAIT 308

FOR BUDGET COMMITTEE for Three Years Two Elected

**CAMERON FORD 770** elected

**MARION PAXTON 718** elected

FOR CEMETERY TRUSTEE for Three Years One Elected

**NANCY E. MINER 934** elected

FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEE for Three Years Two Elected

**DONNA DUNLOP 820** elected

**CHRISTINE HAMM 902** elected

FOR SUPERVISOR OF CHECKLIST for Six Years One Elected

**SHARON C. BAKER 934** elected

FOR TOWN MODERATOR for Two Years One Elected

**GARY B. RICHARDSON 961** elected

FOR TOWN TREASURER for Three Years One Elected

**BONITA A. CRESSY 943** elected

FOR TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS for Three Years One Elected

**CAROLYN HACKWELL 898** elected

FOR SCHOOL BOARD for Three Years Two Elected

SAMUEL J. DELGADO 83

**ELIZABETH DURANT 460** elected

KAREN IRWIN 346

SETH SHORTLIDGE 314

KATHLEEN TRANTHAM 40

DAVID A. WHITE 295

**PETER B. YUNICH 353** elected

FOR SCHOOL CLERK for One Year One Elected  
**SUSAN BATCHELDER 914 elected**

FOR SCHOOL MODERATOR for One Year One Elected  
**CHARLES DIBBLE 919 elected**

FOR SCHOOL TREASURER for One Year One Elected  
**ALLAN BLOOMQUIST 520 elected**  
KEVIN CHITTIM 461

## **Warrant Article 2. Zoning Amendments**

**Article 2:1** YES-800, NO-278 **Approved**

**Article 2.2** YES-949, NO- 94 **Approved**

## **Proposed Town Government Procedural Change**

**Article 3:** Do you favor adoption of the town manager plan as provided in Chapter 37 of the Revised Statutes Annotated? Submitted by petition.

YES-480, NO-556 – **Failed**

**Article 4:** Are you in favor of decreasing the Board of Selectmen to 3 members per RSA 41:8-d? Submitted by petition.

YES-404, NO-664 – **Failed**

**Article 5:** The moderator recognized Selectman George Langwasser for the purpose of moving Article 5, seconded by Selectman Donald Lane, as follows, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,087,259** to defray the cost of General Government Operations:

| <b><u>General Government Functions</u></b>        | <b><u>\$\$ in Year 2008</u></b> |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Executive   | 235,937                         |
| Election, Registrations, Vital Stats. & Tax Coll. | 277,273                         |
| Financial Administration                          | 113,529                         |
| Assessing   | 120,758                         |
| Legal   | 43,874                          |
| Personnel Administration                          | 24,100                          |
| Planning & Zoning Departments                     | 99,338                          |
| Cemeteries  | 42,251                          |
| Insurance   | 128,199                         |
| Economic Development Committee                    | 2,000                           |
| <b>Total</b>                                      | <b>\$1,087,259</b>              |

*(Majority Vote Required)*

*The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this article.*

*The Budget Committee recommends this article.*

Chairman George Langwasser stated there are several articles that the board will not contest, Article 5 being one of them. He explained the Board of Selectmen will support warrant articles 5, 12, and 16.

**The moderator called for a voice vote and declared Article 5 passed.**

Chairman George Langwasser greeted everyone and noted this was the first time an annual meeting was being held on a Saturday morning due to residents' requests. He introduced the officials present: Selectman Scott Flood, Selectman Peter Russell, Selectman Donald Lane, and Selectman Tom Congoran, Interim Town Administrator Robert Veloski, and Finance Director Robert Blanchette.

Outgoing Selectman Donald Lane and Peter Russell were recognized for their years of service to the community and were presented with proclamations and keys to the Town.

Chairman Langwasser thanked the town budget committee for its work over the past year. He stated the Board of Selectmen was not always in agreement, but respected the committee's opinions. Chairman Langwasser recognized the Public Works Department for its outstanding job dealing with the winter weather and last spring's floods. He stated the Public Works budget had been impacted by both the length and severity of the winter storms and that additional funding would be requested for Article 8. He continued stating the Board did not agree with the budget committee's recommendations for Articles 5, 12 and 16 but would not protest those articles because it was more important to fund the Public Works department.

**Article 6:** The moderator recognized Selectman Congoran for the purpose of moving Article 6, seconded by Selectman Flood, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,333,902** to defray the cost of Public Safety Operations:

| <b><u>Public Safety Operations</u></b> | <b><u>\$\$ in Year 2008</u></b> |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Police Department                      | 652,089                         |
| Animal Control                         | 7,084                           |
| Ambulance                              | 409,396                         |
| Fire Department                        | 256,557                         |
| Emergency Management                   | 1                               |
| Rescue Squad                           | 8,775                           |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>\$1,333,902</b>              |

**(Majority Vote Required)**

*The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.*

*The Budget Committee recommends this article.*

There was discussion regarding the ambulance costs and reimbursements for calls to Warner and Webster.

**The moderator called for a voice vote and declared Article 6 passed.**

**Article 7:** The moderator recognized Selectman Russell for the purpose of moving Article 7, seconded by Selectman Congoran, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$52,623** and to authorize the Fire Department Ambulance to recruit and hire an additional full time Firefighter/Paramedic. The costs anticipated are \$52,623 for a nine month period. These costs include:

| <b>New Firefighter/Paramedic</b> | <b><u>\$\$ in Year 2008</u></b> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Salary                           | \$33,696                        |
| Uniforms                         | \$2,000                         |
| Overtime                         | \$2,000                         |
| Health/Dental                    | \$10,013                        |
| Holidays                         | \$2,652                         |
| Medicare                         | \$539                           |
| Retirement                       | \$5,723                         |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>\$56,623</b>                 |

This would reduce the call wages by \$4,000 for a net cost of **\$52,623**.

**(Majority Vote Required)**

*The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.*

*The Budget Committee recommends this article.*

Selectman Russell stated the town has run out of volunteers due to increased time commitments and required training.

Fire Chief Rick Schaefer said the passage of the warrant would provide for a full time person to be on duty all the time in order to provide the service needed by the town, but he fire department would continue to use the call force four nights a week to save money.

**The moderator called for a voice vote and declared Article 7 passed.**

**Article 8:** The moderator recognized Selectman Flood for the purpose of moving Article 8, seconded by Selectman Congoran, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,005,467** to defray the cost of Public Works Operations:

| <b><u>Public Works Operations</u></b> | <b><u>\$\$ in Year 2008</u></b> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Highway Administration                | 544,202                         |
| Highways & Streets                    | 511,686                         |
| Buildings & Grounds                   | 217,557                         |
| Street Lighting                       | 1,530                           |
| Transfer Station Operations           | 582,167                         |
| Landfill Maintenance & Monitoring     | 41,300                          |
| Sewer Department                      | 107,025                         |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>\$2,005,467</b>              |

**(Majority Vote Required)**

*The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this article.*

*The Budget Committee recommends this article.*

David Lancaster made a motion to skip over Article 8 (and 9) to move ahead to Articles 10 and 11, seconded by Dan Coen.

Selectman Flood explained there would be an amendment to Article 8 and suggested the voters should be informed of the amendment. He asked for motion to be withdrawn in order to explain the amendment to the article. Mr. Coen did not object.

Selectman Congoran explained the impact of the snow and ice on the highway department budget so far for the year. He referred to a handout dated 3/12/08 outlining the costs to date for plowing and ice removal:

Costs for Plowing/Ice Removal for January & February 2008

| Item          | Budgeted | Spent to Date |
|---------------|----------|---------------|
| Salt          | \$40,000 | \$44,633      |
| Sand          | \$8,000  | \$25,464      |
| Fuel          | \$50,000 | \$28,744      |
| Equip Repairs | \$13,000 | \$6,075       |
| Equip. Maint. | \$18,000 | \$17,557      |
| Equip. Lease  | \$50,000 | \$28,655      |

Selectman Congoran indicated Herm Blanchette, Director of Public Works has approached the Board to request an additional \$54,000 for the Public Works Department budget. Selectman Congoran indicated the Board supports the revised request.

David Lancaster re-stated his original motion to take up Article 10 and 11 prior to Article 8, seconded by Dan Coen.

Moderator Richardson called for a voice vote on Mr. Lancaster's motion and declared it failed.

Arnold Coda asked for clarification of the tax rate increase based on the proposed amendment.

**Selectman Congoran made a motion to increase Article 8 by \$54,000 to raise and appropriate \$2,059,467, seconded by Selectman Russell.**

**The moderator called the question on Selectman Congoran's motion and declared it passed by voice vote.**

**The moderator called for a voice vote on Article 8 as amended to \$2,059,467 and declared Article 8 passed.**

**Article 9:** The moderator recognized Selectman Flood for the purpose of moving Article 9, seconded by Selectman Langwasser, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$122,690** to defray the cost of Health and Human Services Operations:

**Health & Human Service Operations**

**\$\$ in Year 2008**

|                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Community Action Program -- (CAP) | 5,288            |
| Human Services Administration     | 62,402           |
| Human Services Vendors            | 55,000           |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>\$122,690</b> |

***(Majority Vote Required)***

*The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.*

*The Budget Committee recommends this article.*

**There was no debate on the article.**

**The moderator called for a voice vote and declared Article 9 passed.**

**Article 10:** The moderator recognized Selectman Russell for the purpose of moving Article 10, seconded by Selectman Langwasser, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$150,146** to defray the cost of Recreation Operations:

|                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b><u>Recreation Operations</u></b> | <b><u>\$\$ in Year 2008</u></b> |
| Recreation Department               | 113,619                         |
| Patriotic Purposes                  | 3,400                           |
| Slusser Senior Center               | 33,127                          |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>\$150,146</b>                |

***(Majority Vote Required)***

*The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this article.*

*The Budget Committee recommends this article.*

**Selectman Lane made a motion to amend Article 10 to increase it by \$16,400 to a total of \$166,546, seconded by Selectman Russell.**

Selectman Lane stated the amendment was to cover two band concerts, and two summer camp counselors; items that were reduced from the proposed recreation budget by the budget committee.

Discussion followed regarding the summer camp funding and the plan for the program to become self sustaining. There was also discussion about whether it is the taxpayer's responsibility to provide summer care and the purpose of the recreation revolving fund.

Discussion continued with some residents offering to make donations to help with the costs of the band concerts.

Richard Kennedy made a motion to move the question.

The moderator stated Mr. Kennedy's motion was not debatable, called for a voice vote and declared the motion to end debate passed.

The moderator stated a written petition for a yes/no paper ballot vote had been submitted. He explained the paper ballot was for the proposed amendment to add \$16,400 to Article 10.

The moderator read the results of the ballot vote on the amendment to add \$16,400 to Article 10 – 155 NO votes, 210 YES votes.

He called for a voice vote on Article 10, and declared it passed as amended.

**Article 11:** The moderator recognized Selectman Langwasser for the purpose of moving Article 11, seconded by Selectman Flood, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$274,731** to defray the cost of the Hopkinton Library:

| <u>Library Operations</u> | <u>\$\$ in Year 2008</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Hopkinton Library         | 274,731                  |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>\$274,731</b>         |

*(Majority Vote Required)*

*The Budget Committee recommends this article.*

There was no debate on Article 11.

The moderator called for a voice vote and declared Article 11 passed.

**Article 12:** The moderator recognized Selectman Lane for the purpose of moving Article 12, seconded by Selectman Langwasser, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$840** for Conservation:

| <u>Conservation</u>     | <u>\$\$ in Year 2008</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Conservation Commission | 840                      |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>\$840</b>             |

*(Majority Vote Required)*

*The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this article.*

*The Budget Committee recommends this article.*

Eric Leadbeater made a motion to increase Article 12 by \$825, for a total of \$1,665, for two Hopkinton students to attend conservation camp, seconded by Jed Merrow.

The moderator called for a voice vote on Mr. Leadbeater's motion to amend. A second voice vote was needed, and the moderator declared it passed.

The moderator called for a voice vote on Article 12 as amended for a total of \$1,665 and declared it passed as amended.

**Article 13:** The moderator recognized Selectman Russell for the purpose of moving Article 13, seconded by Selectman Flood, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$414,632** for the payment of Principal and Interest of long-term debt.

| <u>Long-term Debt &amp; TAN Interest</u> | <u>\$\$ in Year 2008</u> |
|--|--------------------------|
| Principal - Bonds and Notes              | 282,133                  |
| Interest – Bonds and Notes               | 132,499                  |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>\$414,632</b>         |



**(Majority Vote Required)**

*The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.  
The Budget Committee recommends this article.*

There was no debate on Article 13.

**The moderator called for a voice vote and declared Article 13 passed.**

**Article 14:** The moderator recognized Selectman Russell for the purpose of moving Article 14, seconded by Selectman Flood, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$291,500** to be placed in previously established Capital Reserve funds as follows:

| <b><u>Capital Reserve Accounts</u></b> | <b><u>\$\$ in Year 2008</u></b> |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Computer Hardware/Software Upgrades    | 34,000                          |
| Sludge Removal                         | 10,000                          |
| Fire Dept Vehicles and Equipment       | 60,000                          |
| Public Works Vehicles and Equipment    | 115,000                         |
| Transfer Station Equipment             | 27,500                          |
| Police Cruisers and Accessories        | 33,000                          |
| Library Replacement Building System    | 12,000                          |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>\$291,500</b>                |

**(Majority Vote Required)**

*The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.  
The Budget Committee recommends this article.*

There was no debate on Article 14.

**The moderator called for a voice vote and declared Article 14 passed.**

**Article 15:** The moderator recognized Selectman Flood for the purpose of moving Article 15, seconded by Selectman Langwasser, to see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of Police and Fire Radio and Related Equipment Replacement and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$7,000** to be placed in this fund and to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend.

**(Majority Vote Required)**

*The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.  
The Budget Committee recommends this article.*

There was no debate on Article 15.

**The moderator called for a voice vote and declared Article 15 passed.**

**Article 16:** The moderator recognized Selectman Langwasser for the purpose of moving Article 16, seconded by Selectman Congoran, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$13,000** to be placed in previously established Expendable General Trust Funds as follows.

| <b><u>Expendable General Trust Funds</u></b> | <b><u>\$\$ in Year 2008</u></b> |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Hopkinton Library Technology                 | 5,500                           |
| Town Facilities                              | 0                               |
| Library Building/Grounds                     | 5,000                           |
| Benefits Pay                                 | 2,500                           |
| Total  | <b>\$13,000</b>                 |

***(Majority Vote Required)***

*The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this article.*

*The Budget Committee recommends this article.*

There was no debate on Article 16.

**The moderator called for a voice vote and declared Article 16 passed.**

**Article 17:** The moderator recognized Selectman Congoran for the purpose of moving Article 17, seconded by Selectman Russell, to see if the Town will vote to amend the amount of funds to be placed in the Recycling Revolving Fund established at the March 2006 Town Meeting by limiting the amount of monies received from fees, charges or other income derived from the activities or services supported by the fund to \$1.

***(Majority Vote Required)***

*The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.*

*The Budget Committee recommends this article.*

Louise Carr asked the Board to clarify if this was for one year or for future years.

Selectman Congoran said it will continue to be repeated until Webster has funded their portion of the fund, perhaps three or four years.

**The moderator called for a voice vote and declared Article 17 passed.**

**Article 18:** The moderator recognized Elaine Loft for the purpose of moving Article 18, seconded by Janet Krzyzaniak, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,000** in the interest of public health and safety to provide winter plowing and sanding on the following roads during the winter months:

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| South Shore Drive         | 1500 feet |
| Ridge Lane                | 900 feet  |
| Rolfe Pond Road           | 2000 feet |
| Salachar Road             | 500 feet  |
| Perch Lane                | 700 feet  |
| Sparrow Lane              | 1000 feet |
| Robin Lane                | 400 feet  |
| Loop Road (off Spring St) | 800 feet  |

This action shall in no way be interpreted as changing the status of these roads from "private" to "public" roads. It is the general policy of the Town that no work will be done on any private or Class VI highway.

***Submitted by Petition (Majority Vote Required)***

*The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.*

*The Budget Committee does not recommend this article.*

Discussion followed.

The moderator indicated there had been a written petition for a paper yes/no ballot on Article 18.

**Moderator Richardson read the results of the paper ballot on Article 18 261 YES votes, 71 NO votes**

**The moderator declared Article 18 adopted.**

**Article 19:** The moderator recognized Selectman Lane for the purpose of moving Article 19, seconded by Selectman Langwasser, to see if the Town will vote to formally designate the following Town-owned tracts of land that were purchased for conservation purposes as Town Forests and to be managed by the Hopkinton Conservation Commission: Rice Lot-Tax Map 219, lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12; Myron Lot-Tax Map 204 lot 15; Rollins Lot-Tax Map 103 lot 16; Beyers Lot-Tax Map 238 lot 80; Ransmeier Lot-Tax Map 239 lot 38.1 and Map 250 lot 67; Richards Lot-Tax Map 105 lots 12 and 17; Carson Lot-Tax Map 265 lot 2.

***This article was proposed and submitted by the Hopkinton Conservation Commission.  
(Majority Vote Required)***

There was discussion on the uses and rules of the conservation lands.

**The moderator called for a voice vote and declared Article 19 passed.**

**Article 20:** The moderator recognized George Chase for the purpose of moving Article 20, seconded by Rep. Derek Owen, to see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representatives, our State Senator and our Governor:

Resolved: We the citizens of Hopkinton, NH believe in a New Hampshire that is just and fair. The Property tax has become unjust and unfair. State leaders who take a pledge for no new taxes perpetuate higher and higher property taxes. We call on our State Representatives, our State Senator, and our Governor to reject the "Pledge", have an open discussion covering all options, and adopt a revenue system that lowers property taxes.

***Submitted by Petition (Majority Vote Required)***

There was a lengthy debate on the state's tax system.

**Larry Donahue made a motion to postpone the article indefinitely, seconded by Chris Lawless. Mr. Donahue stated a discussion at the meeting would not reflect the opinions of the entire community.**

**The moderator called for a voice vote on Mr. Donahue's motion to indefinitely postpone Article 20 and declared it failed.**

**The moderator called for a voice vote on Article 20 and declared it passed.**

**Article 21:** To hear the reports of agents, officers, and committees, heretofore chosen, to pass any vote relating thereto, and to transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

David Lancaster requested the number of voters present, the total number of voters in town and the percentage of registered voters present.

396 registered voters present  
4,518 registered voters on the checklist  
8.8% voter turnout

Selectman Peter Russell made motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 p.m., seconded by Selectman Don Lane.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue B. Strickford, Town Clerk

A True Copy Attest, March 15, 2008